

Making a Mark



Simon Marks Timeline

- 1888 Simon is born on 9 July to Michael and Hannah Marks. He attended Manchester Jews School and Manchester Grammar School.
- 1907 Simon returns to Manchester having been sent to Europe by his father to improve his French and German language skills.
- 1907 On Christmas Eve, Michael Marks takes Simon (aged 19), Tom Spencer Jnr and a friend to lunch. Later that day Michael collapses in the street, and dies on New Year's Eve. Simon takes on the responsibility of supporting his mother and sisters, and maintaining control of M&S.
- 1912 Simon and Tom Spencer Jnr become junior directors and chief buyers. The Chairmanship is held by William Chapman, who was Tom Spencer's legal executor.
- 1914 Simon is appointed Director.
- 1916 At the age of just 28, Simon becomes Chairman.
- 1917 Simon is conscripted to the Royal Field Artillery during the First World War.
- 1924 Simon Marks visits the United States. He returns with new ideas which will transform M&S.
- 1928 *St Michael* is registered as a trademark. It was held as a mark of quality throughout most of the 20th Century.
- 1930 Head Office relocates to 82 Baker Street.
- 1932 At a dinner party, Simon Marks meets Flora Solomon. She is appointed to head a Welfare Department, which is established the following year.
- 1935 Profits (before tax) exceed £1 million for the first time.
- 1939 By the end of the 1930s M&S has 234 stores and 18500 employees. Simon is made an Honorary Doctor of Science at the University of London.
- 1940 Simon is asked to join the London and South Eastern Area Production Board which streamlined the production of war materials.
- 1944 Simon is awarded a knighthood.
- 1957 Simon was a key supporter of the Royal College of Surgeons and in this year he is elected an Honorary Fellow and Member of the Court of Patrons.
- 1961 Simon receives a hereditary peerage and takes the title 'Lord Marks of Broughton' in recognition of his many achievements.
- 1964 Simon dies at work on 8 December.